

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

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MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

March 2, 2012

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., Robbyn Tumey, and Russ Anzalone

Others present: Tena O'Brien, Christine Southard, Sharon Rose, Kim Dennison, and Gwen Millegar

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

New Business:

- A. **Ballot Name Certification:** Chairman Brown stated that the commissioners are to review the Political Practice Pledges that were filed for candidates in the Preferential Primary and Non-Partisan Judicial General Election to be held on May 22, 2012. Chairman Brown stated that the candidates state the way that they want their names to appear on the ballot and that he has seen the names of the candidates on the Political Practice Pledges, but that Commissioners Tumey and Anzalone also need to review the names. Chairman Brown pointed out that Brenda DeShields, Circuit Clerk and Recorder was incorrectly written, and would have to be corrected. Commissioner Anzalone questioned the name "Benton County Assessor Bear Chaney". Chairman Brown responded that is correct. Christine Southard explained that the name on the Political Practice Pledge is how the candidate filed and how it will be printed on the ballot. Commissioner Anzalone questioned why Ronnie L. Smith's name is not on the candidate list. Election Coordinator Kim Dennison explained that he filed as an Independent candidate and his name will not appear on the Preferential Primary ballot. Christine Southard further explained that Ronnie L. Smith's name will be on the General Election Ballot and the commissioners will verify his name at that time. Christine stated she had a question and asked the commissioners if they interpret that there are to be three (3) separate questions for Bella Vista on the ballot. She stated that voters in the annexation areas will only have one (1) annexation question to vote on, but the voters that live in the City of Bella Vista will have three (3) annexation questions to vote on. Chairman Brown responded yes, that is the way he understands it and asked if there is a ballot title. Kim responded, yes. Christine noted that Non-Partisan Judicial candidates are on the candidate listing as "Republicans" and should be changed to reflect "Non-Partisan". She requested that Kim make that correction.

Gwen Millegar asked Chairman Brown if the Non-Partisan Judicial candidates on the ballot would be in the same order. Chairman Brown responded on the Republican and Democrat ballots, yes, but explained that there is also a separate ballot for those voters who only want to vote for the judges' race. Gwen stated she had concerns because it seems to her that people fail to vote on the judicial ballot.

Chairman Brown asked Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey for any changes to the Ballot Name Certification. Chairman Brown stated that Brenda DeShields, Circuit Clerk & Recorder would be changed to Circuit Clerk & Recorder Brenda DeShields according to §7-7-305(c)(3)(B). The law allows incumbents to place their titles on the ballot, along with their names, but the law specifies that the office has to be listed first. Chairman Brown asked Christine to draft a letter to Brenda DeShields explaining the change.

Chairman Brown stated the next meeting will be March 8, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. for the Ballot Draw. Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Anzalone
Secretary
Prepared by Sharon Rose
Benton County Election Commission